

### *Multiple Federal Programs Need Additional Funding to Assist Those Affected by Hurricane Irene and Tropical Storm Lee*

Washington, DC -- With New Yorkers still recovering from Hurricane Irene and Tropical Storm Lee, Congressman Maurice Hinchey (D-NY) is continuing his efforts to secure additional federal funding for multiple disaster relief programs that are in need of increased funding following recent flooding. Hinchey, along with 31 other U.S. House members, sent a letter to the Chairman and Ranking Member of the U.S. House Appropriations Committee, of which Hinchey is a member, urging that funding for the programs be included in the Fiscal Year 2012 Appropriations Bills that will need to be taken up by the House in November.

"The legislation we passed in October to ensure that FEMA would not run out of funding was only a down payment," said Hinchey. "I said at the time that additional measures would need to be taken to aid farmers, families, and small businesses affected by Hurricane Irene and Tropical Storm Lee. There are now at least 11 programs that need increased funding to help New Yorkers recover, and Congress must take immediate action. At this point, the best way to secure funding for these programs is through the Fiscal Year 2012 Appropriations Bills, and as a member of the Appropriations Committee, I'm working every day to get that done. We can't wait any longer for this badly needed assistance."

Hinchey is working to ensure that adequate funding is provided for the following programs:

1. Emergency Response Program (FHA);
2. Economic Development Assistance Programs (DOC);
3. LIHEAP Emergency Contingency Funds (HHS);
4. Community Development Block Grants (HUD);
5. Section 8 (HUD);
6. Emergency Conservation Program (USDA);
7. Emergency Watershed Protection Program (USDA);
8. Emergency Forest Restoration Program (USDA);
9. Disaster Relief Fund (FEMA);
10. Army Corps of Engineers, Operation and Maintenance (DOD); and
11. Army Corps of Engineers, Flood Control and Coastal Emergencies (DOD).

In September, Hinchey led the charge in support of comprehensive disaster relief legislation,

which would have provided much of the funding necessary for these programs to meet their obligations in the aftermath of Irene and Lee. After House Republican leaders refused to allow a vote on the measure, Hinchey voted to pass a short term measure, noting that future action would need to be taken.

A PDF of Hinchey's letter can be found [here](#). The text of the letter follows.

October 25, 2011

The Honorable Hal Rogers  
H-307, The Capitol  
Washington, DC

The Honorable Norm Dicks  
1016 Longworth HOB  
Washington, DC

Dear Chairman Rogers and Ranking Member Dicks,

This year, 48 out of 50 states have experienced federally declared disasters. With 83 major disasters declared so far in 2011, we have already established a record and still have more than two months remaining in the year. While our communities have shown remarkable resilience in the face of these tragedies, the devastation they have experienced is incredible.

On October 4, 2011, President Obama signed into law a Continuing Resolution which appropriated \$2.65 billion for FEMA's Disaster Relief Fund. While this funding is critical in helping our districts rebuild, it represents a down payment on the path to full recovery. As you draft legislation to fund the federal government for the remainder of Fiscal Year 2012, we respectfully request that you include funding for the following disaster-related programs that is sufficient to meet the pressing needs in our districts:

- Emergency Response Program (FHA);
- Economic Development Assistance Programs (DOC);
- LIHEAP Emergency Contingency Funds (HHS);
- Community Development Block Grants (HUD);
- Section 8 (HUD);
- Emergency Conservation Program (USDA);
- Emergency Watershed Protection Program (USDA);
- Emergency Forest Restoration Program (USDA);
- Disaster Relief Fund (FEMA);
- Army Corps of Engineers, Operation and Maintenance (DOD); and
- Army Corps of Engineers, Flood Control and Coastal Emergencies (DOD).

Our constituents are working to get back on their feet, but they cannot do it alone. Please provide funding that ensures the swift recovery of the families, farms, and businesses in our districts.

Sincerely,

Maurice Hinchey

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